



Media Statement For Immediate Release

For Immediate Release, 28 May 2026

New Victorian Campaign Finance Laws:

A Stacked Deck with New Rules

Wherever the Victorian government lands on electoral finance laws, one thing is already clear: they have no intention of levelling the playing field for Independent candidates.

The laws struck down by the High Court were a blueprint for entrenching major party dominance. Under that system, the Liberal incumbent in Hawthorn had access to an estimated \$793,000 in public funding, including administrative funding and advance public funding – all paid for by Victorian taxpayers – as well as nominated entity funding, and party membership revenue. **As a new Independent candidate, I had access to none of that. Zero.**

The major parties automatically receive hundreds of thousands of dollars from tax payers in administrative funding. This is not available to Independent challengers.

Today I accepted a donation of \$140,000 from Climate 200's 33,000 generous donors for administrative support.

This donation will go some way toward enabling me to match the financial firepower that the major parties take from hard-working Victorians.

Any genuine reform must ensure that new challengers have a fair opportunity to raise basic administrative funding before donation caps apply. Without that, the system simply entrenches the legacy parties. But that is precisely what the Allan Labor government wants.

Quote attributable to Shima Ibuki, Independent Candidate for Hawthorn:

"The High Court struck down the old laws because they were rigged. Whatever replaces them, the test is simple: does it give Independent candidates a genuine opportunity to compete? So far, the answer is no."

"I'm grateful to Climate 200's thousands of donors for helping me to get out of the starting blocks, which is something the major parties receive from Victorian taxpayers as a matter of course."

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